REMARKS

Claims are pending in the application, claims 6, 11-17, 19, 20, 22, 24, and 29 being cancelled and claims 32-43 being newly added herein. Claims 1, 32, and 36 are the only independent claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 7-12 and 18 stand objected to because of several informalities.

The informalities noted by the Examiner particularly with respect to claims 7, 8 and 18 have been corrected.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner points out that claim 15 contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is moot owing to the cancellation of claim 15 herein.

Claims 20-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner specifically maintains that claim 20 is unclear because of the phrase "as hereinbefore described."

In response to the rejection of claims 20-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claim 20 has been cancelled and claims remaining in the application from among claims 21-31 have been amended to depend from new independent claim 32.

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Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-11, 14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,328,645 to Sauer.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sauer.

Claims 6, 20-24, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sauer in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,826,045 to Champayne.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sauer in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,239,244 to Leinfelt.

Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sauer in view of Champayne and further in view of Leinfelt.

Claims 20 and 35-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Champayne in view of Sauer, Leinfelt and U.S. Patent No. 4,731,894 to Ashworth.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the Examiner's indication that claim 17 contains allowable subject matter, applicant has amended claim 1 herein to incorporate the limitations of claim 17, which has been cancelled. Claim 1 is now equivalent to claim 17 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (none). Pursuant to the indication by the Examiner, claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record.

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New independent claims 32 and 36 incorporate essential subject matter from cancelled claim 17 and are patentable over the prior art. Claims 32 and 36 omit mention of the material of the external layer, urethane, but the tripartite layered structure of the mounting plate is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

The claim amendments, if any, made herein are made without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue additional subject matter in a separate continuation or divisional application.
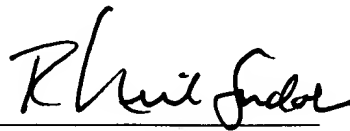
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1, 32, and 36, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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